

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A glutamic~~ An isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene encoding an enzyme selected from the group consisting of glutamate dehydrogenase, citrate synthase, isocitrate dehydrogenase, pyruvate dehydrogenase, and aconitase, comprising a the DNA sequence situated at about position -35 ~~in a promoter~~ sequencee from the transcription start site of the glutamic acid synthesizing gene, wherein said DNA sequence is selected from the group consisting of CGGTCA, TTGTCA, TTGACA, and TTGCCA.

21. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes glutamate dehydrogenase.

22. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes citrate synthase.

23. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes isocitrate dehydrogenase.

24. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes pyruvate dehydrogenase.

25. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes aconitase.

26. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, wherein said DNA sequence situated at about position -35 from the transcription start site of the glutamic acid synthesizing gene further comprising comprises TATAAT ~~or~~ CATAAT situated at about position -10 ~~in the promoter sequence~~ from the transcription start site.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, wherein said DNA sequence is TTGTCA.

29. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, wherein said DNA sequence is TTGACA.

30. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, wherein said DNA sequence is TTGCCA.

31. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes citrate synthase and wherein said DNA sequence is TTGACA.

32. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 31, wherein said DNA sequence situated at about position -35 from the transcription start site of the glutamic acid synthesizing gene further comprising comprises TATAAT or TATAAC situated at about position -10 in the promoter sequence from the transcription start site.

33. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes isocitrate dehydrogenase and wherein said DNA sequence is TTGCCA or TTGACA.

34. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 33, wherein said DNA sequence situated at about position -35 from the transcription start site of the glutamic acid synthesizing gene further comprising comprises TATAAT situated at about position -10 in the promoter sequence from the transcription start site.

35. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20, ~~which is~~ wherein said gene encodes pyruvate dehydrogenase and wherein said DNA sequence is TTGCCA.

36. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 35, wherein said DNA sequence situated at about position -35 from the transcription start site of the glutamic acid synthesizing gene further comprising comprises TATAAT situated at about position -10 from the transcription start site.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A coryneform~~ An isolated coryneform bacterium comprising the glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20.

38. (New) A method for producing L-glutamic acid which comprises culturing a microorganism expressing an enzyme encoded by the isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 20 in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable to produce and accumulate said L-glutamic acid in the medium, and collecting said L-glutamic acid from the medium.

39. (New) An isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene encoding an enzyme selected from the group consisting of glutamate dehydrogenase, citrate synthase, isocitrate dehydrogenase, pyruvate dehydrogenase, and aconitase, comprising the DNA sequence situated at about position -10 from the transcription start site of the glutamic acid synthesizing gene, wherein said DNA sequence is selected from the group consisting of TATAAC and TATAAT.

40. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39, wherein said gene encodes glutamate dehydrogenase.

41. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39, wherein said gene encodes citrate synthase.

42. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39, wherein said gene encodes isocitrate dehydrogenase.

43. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39, wherein said gene encodes pyruvate dehydrogenase.

44. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39, wherein said gene encodes aconitase.

45. (New) An isolated coryneform bacterium comprising the glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39.

46. (New) A method for producing an L-glutamic acid which comprises culturing a microorganism expressing an enzyme encoded by the isolated coryneform bacterium glutamic acid synthesizing gene of Claim 39 in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable to produce and accumulate said L-glutamic acid in the medium, and collecting said L-glutamic acid from the medium.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-19 were previously canceled.

Claims 20-26 and 28-37 have been amended.

Claims 38-46 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 20-26 and 28-37 is supported by the corresponding claims as previously pending and the specification at pages 3-59. New Claims 39-45 are supported by the previously pending claims and the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 10-24, page 10, lines 5-7 and lines 17-12, and Table 17, page 20). New Claims 38 and 46 are supported by original Claims 1-11 and the specification as filed, for example at page 3, lines 7-10, page 4, line 23 to page 5, line 3, page 10, line 25 to page 12, line 8, and the Examples.

No new matter has been entered by the present amendment.